(b) if so, the works executed in this regard till July 31, 1997; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the above work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Lines between Chandil-Tiruldih and Barkakana-Ramgarh has been charged. The work has been taken up on the remaining section. Rs. 20.27 crore have been allotted during 1997-98 for this project.

[English]

Setting up of Hotels

2553. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propsoe to set up railways hotels at different tourist spots in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of railway hotels at present in the country, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The proposal is in a conceptual stage.

(c) There are two Railway Hotels at Ranchi and Puri besides three Rail Yatri Niwases at New Delhi, Howrah and Gorakhpur.

[Translation]

Accidents due to fall of people from running Trains

2554. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of accidents have occurred due to fall of the people from the running trains on account of overcrowding in trains in Delhi-Sonipat and Delhi-Rohtak rail section in Haryana during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total number of such accidents occurred so far and the steps taken by the Government to check such accidents;

(c) whether the Government propose to increae the number of compartments so as to provide more space in these trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

People killed at Unmanned Railway Crossing

2555. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed or injured at Unmanned Railway crossings during the year 1996 and upto 30th June, 1997, Zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken to prevent such accidents;

(c) whether it is proposed to construct Railway crossings at 12T.K. (Rai Singh Nagar) of Shri Ganga Nagar and at Dholipal, Nava 34 STG, Bagalawali of Kojuwala and Hanumangarh and at Ramgarh of Nohar; and

(d) if so, the time by which these railway crossing are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Zone-wise break up of casualties at unamanned level crossings during 1996-97 and April to June, 1997 is as under :

Railway	1996-97		April-June 1997	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
1	2	3	4	5
Central	1	6	-	-
Eastern	1	3	-	-
Northern	12	25	11	8
N.E.	49	17	5	4
N.F.	-	-	-	-
Southern	46	20	1	5
S.C.	50	51	7	1
S.E.	3	4	4	1
Western	10	9	-	-
Total	172	135	28	19

(b) The following steps are being taken to prevent level crossing accidents :

(1) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.

(2) Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach of the level crossings to enable the train driver to whistle to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched to check whether the drivers are whistling from the whistling boards.

(3) To educate the road users about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio and newspaper advertisements and street plays.

(4) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Railways Act, 1989.

(5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 kmph covers 25 meters/second. Thus, although to the road user it appears to be 200 meters away, in terms of time, it is only 8 seconds away.

(6) Involvement of village panchayats in their public awareness programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Technology Development Board

2556. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Technology Development Board in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which the board was constituted and the annual estimated budget of the board;

(c) whether the officers of this board undertook foreign tours to give thrust to the technological research work during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there are any guidelines for the Board to spend the annual budget amount on various heads, and if so, the break up of amount incurred on the salaries, maintenance, tour expenses, research and technological development etc. during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MNISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Technology Development Board was constituted on 1st September, 1996. The Budget Estimate for 1997-98 is Rs. 70.00 Cr.

(c) and (d) The Board's functions include providing financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies for attemption development and commercialisation of indigenous technology or adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic application and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Board may sponsor foreign travel including of its officers in furtherance of its objectives. The Member-Secretary of the Board was included by the Government in a joint group with representatives of industry association and academic institutions to study the functioning of technology transfer centres in Germany and meeting with the officials of Science & Technology in the Department of Trade and Industry in London in July 1997. The expenditure incurred by the Government on the tour of the Member-Secretary was Rs. 1.70 lakhs. No other tour has been undertaken by any officer of the Board so far.

(e) The Board is administered under the provisions of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 and the Technology Development Board Rules, 1996. The Government has released a sum of Rs. 29.97 crores during the year 1996-97, the break-up of which is as follows :

Grant	Rs. 29.00 crores
Salaries	Rs. 0.50 crore
Other administrative expenses	Rs. 0.47 crore

[English]

Free Rail Travel Pass facility to Dronacharya Award Winners

2557. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide free rail travel pass facility to the Dronacharya Award Winners on the line of facility provided to the Arjun Award Winners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.